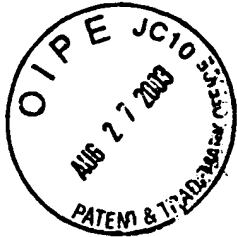


Appl. No. 09/992,612  
Amdt. Dated August 25, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of May 7, 2003

# 9  
(NE)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

<b>Applicant(s):</b>	Ralph et al.	<b>Examiner:</b>	Reip, D.
<b>Serial No.:</b>	09/992,612	<b>Art Unit:</b>	3731
<b>Filed:</b>	11/13/2001	<b>Docket No.:</b>	F-146B
<b>For:</b>	Polyaxial Pedicle Screw Having a Threaded and Tapered Compression Locking Mechanism		

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed May 7, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.


Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 12 of this paper.

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on August 25, 2003.

Dated: August 25, 2003

  
Russell R. Kassner

08/28/2003 SLUANG: 00000004 09992612

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